

REMARKS:

REMARKS REGARDING CLAIMS AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1, 7, and 10 have been amended to overcome a rejection of the original claims. Claim 4 has been amended to correct the tense of the sentence to match that of claim 1. Claims 16-25 are newly added claims. Remaining claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11-15 remain in their original form.

IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION:

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Marlow (WO/98/10602).

Initially, it is important to be cognizant of the long-standing standard that anticipation under §102 can only be found if a reference shows exactly what is claimed. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the patent claim. Furthermore, the elements must be arranged as in the claim under review.

Addressing the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102: Examiner is reminded that for there to be anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102, "each and every element" of the claimed invention must be found either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) and references cited therein. See also *Kloster Speedsteel AB v. Crucible Inc.*, 793 F.2d 1565, 1571, 230 USPQ 81, 84 (Fed. Cir. 1986) ("absence from the reference of any claimed element negates anticipation."); *In re Schreiber*, 128 F.3d 1473, 1477, 44 USPQ2d 1429, 1431 (Fed. Cir. 1997). As pointed out by the court, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). An anticipating reference must describe the patented subject matter with sufficient clarity and detail to establish that the subject matter existed and that its existence was recognized by persons of ordinary skill in the field of the invention. *ATD Crop. V. Lydall*,

Inc., 159 F.3d 534, 545, 48 USPQ 2d 1321, 1328 (Fed. Cir. 1998). See also *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 708, 15 USPQ 2d 1655, 1657 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Claim 1 is currently amended. It has been added that the communications link is between a central station that has been selected out of a number of individual, different central stations. This limitation cites an additional feature that is not present in Marlowe. Marlowe does not describe selecting a central station out of a number of individual stations. Instead, Marlowe focuses on distributing the information once it arrives at the central station to operators within the central station. The data transmission link is routed as well in view of the selected central station. Applicant believes that these and other amendments to claim 1 place claim 1 in an allowable state. There is also proper basis in the specification for the claim amendment as well. Applicant further believes that each of claims 2-6 is properly allowable because they depend from claim 1.

Claim 7 has been amended so that the central station is selected out of a number of individual, different central stations. As stated above, this limitation is not found in the prior art, including Marlowe. Further, Marlowe does not disclose a “database server for handling at least one of operator and object related information in view of the selected central station.” As with claim 1, claim 7 has further been amended to indicate that the central station is “selected.” Since these limitations are not disclosed in the prior art, claim 7 contains allowable subject matter. The disclosure of Marlowe is about the use of a central station to send out the information obtained from the remote user rather than selecting the central station to which the communication should be sent. Thus claim 7 and its dependent claims 8 and 9 are allowable.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitation that a central station is “selected out of a number of individual, different central stations.” Other parts of the claim now refer to the central station as being selected. As previously mentioned, the cited prior art does not disclose this limitation. Marlowe at no point refers to selection of the central station out of a number of individual central stations. This amendment places claim 10 and its dependent claims 11-15, 17-19, and 23-25 in condition for allowance.

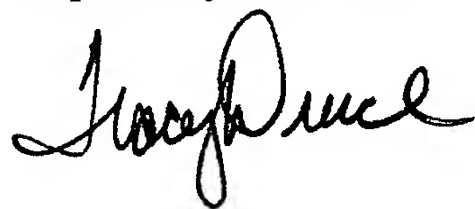
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It is believed that the above changes place the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Order No. 07589.0143.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy W. Druce', written in a cursive style.

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